



## **TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION**

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# News Release

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## **Applications now open for Veteran Entrepreneur Academy in Dallas**

**AUSTIN** – The Texas Veterans Commission is now accepting applications for the second Veteran Entrepreneur Academy, which will be held in Dallas beginning February 2016. The Veteran Entrepreneur Academy is a 150-day program followed by a two-year mentorship designed to provide Veteran Entrepreneurs with a strong foundation in small business basics.

“Through the continuing mentoring relationships and resources provided, I feel this program has presented me with the perfect recipe to make my entrepreneurial dreams come true,” said Brenda Taylor-Harris, graduate of the first academy, held in Austin.

To facilitate the launch of these Veteran-owned enterprises, the Texas Veterans Commission has partnered with PeopleFund, an Austin based nonprofit business lender, to provide start-up or growth capital to graduates. Active duty and honorably discharged Veterans or their spouses who complete the training will receive a Certificate of Completion and are eligible for a loan up to \$35,000 loan at a fixed interest rate of five percent, though some restrictions apply.

“We are very enthusiastic to advance our relationship with the Texas Veterans Commission’s Veteran Entrepreneur Program and this new initiative,” says Gary Lindner an Air Force Veteran and President of PeopleFund. “Our partnership with the Veteran Entrepreneur Program over the past 24 months has been superb. Veterans who complete the Veteran Entrepreneur Academy program elevate the relationship to a new level of excellence.”

Applications for the Veteran Entrepreneur Academy are currently being accepted through Nov. 16, 2015. Classes begin in Dallas on Feb. 26, 2015, and end July 23, 2016. Only complete applications will be considered and applicants must attend all onsite and online classes to be certified and qualify for the \$35,000 loan.

To learn more about the Veteran Entrepreneur Program or to apply for the Veteran Entrepreneur Academy, please visit the Texas Veteran Commission's Veteran Entrepreneur webpage at <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Entrepreneur-Program.aspx>.

#### Texas Veterans Commission

The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to advocate for and provide superior service to Veterans and their families in the areas of disability claims assistance, employment services, education benefits and grant funding. Over 200 skilled counselors in 75 cities provide one-on-one guidance to Veterans and their families to ensure they receive all of the benefits to which they are entitled.

For more information about the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance, please visit <http://www.tvc.texas.gov>.

#### About PeopleFund

PeopleFund is an Austin Texas based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves the entire state. Established in 1994, it is a U.S. Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and SBA certified lender. PeopleFund provides business loans up to \$250,000 to Texas businesses that lack access to traditional financing, along with relevant business education and training. Its target market encompasses minority, women, and veteran business owners and those residing in low to moderate income census tracts.. Through access to capital and education, PeopleFund creates economic opportunity and financial stability to build healthy businesses.

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